

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 OMB-01 EUR-25 DRC-01

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R 130935Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9934

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR AS US VS

SUBJECT: REMARKS IN HANOI BY AUSTRALIAN OVERSEAS TRADE MINISTER
JAMES CAIRNS

1. DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IS CALLED TO AFP STORY (FBIS
B1210041) DATED HANOI DECEMBER 12,
REPORTING REMARKS BY AUSTRALIAN OVERSEAS TRADE MINISTER
CAIRNS. AFP QUOTES CAIRNS AS SAYING AUSTRALIA WOULD PROBABLY
RECOGNIZE PRG "UNDER ONE OR ANOTHER FORM". ANSWERING A QUESTION
AS TO HOW RECOGNITION OF PRG MIGHT AFFECT RELATIONS WITH
GVN CAIRNS SAID THAT "HIS GOVERNMENT WAS NOT UNAWARE OF THE
SENEGALESE EXAMPLE".
(WHEN SENEGAL RECOGNIZED PRG EARLIER THIS YEAR GVN BROKE RE-
LATIONS AND WITHDREW ITS EMBASSY.) ANY SUCH DIPLOMATIC RUPTURE
HE SAID WOULD HAVE TO BE INITIATED BY THE GVN AND "AUSTRALIA FELT
NO CONCERN IN THE MATTER". CAIRNS ALSO SAID THAT AUSTRALIA
PLANNED TO EXTEND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PRG.

2. ACCORDING TO AFP CAIRNS DESCRIBED THE PARIS AGREEMENT AS
A VICTORY FOR NORTH VIET NAM AND THE PRG AND AN "UNACCEPTABLE
DEFEAT" FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE GVN. IN THE INTERVIEW HE
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SEVERAL TIMES INSISTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN STRICTLY

THE VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION. AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN VIET-NAM
HE SAID COULD ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS AGGRESSION.

3. COMMENT: REFERRING TO THE CAIRNS VISIT TO HANOI (BUT WIHTOUT
MENTIONING THE AFP REPORT) GVN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN
SPEAKING TO THE PRESS ON DECEMBER 12 RECALLED THE "UNCHANGED
RECOGNITION BY AUSTRALIA THAT THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM GOVERN-
MENT IS THE SOLE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH
VIET-NAM." ANOTHER GVN SPOKESMAN ON THE SAME DAY SAID THAT
"NLF REPRESENTS NOBODY IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AND THE MEETING OF
A MINISTER OF A FOREIGN NATIONAL WITH ITS REPRESENTATIVE HAS
NO MEANING."
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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